

# CONGRESSMAN DAN LIPINSKI

## STERIGENICS AND METRA BNSF UPDATE AND MEETING NOTICE



Dear Neighbor,

I want to update you about what I have been doing to address two issues of concern in our community and let you know about two upcoming meetings that will provide you with information and give you the opportunity to have your voices heard by some of the responsible parties.

The more significant issue is a potential health threat from the emission of Ethylene Oxide (EtO) – a cancer-causing chemical – from Sterigenics in Willowbrook. As a resident of Western Springs who has always made it a priority to fight for clean air, clean water, and a safe environment, I told the U.S. EPA to either close down the plant or demonstrate that public health is not in danger. So far they have failed to act. **On Nov. 29th the EPA will be holding an open house starting at 3 p.m. with a public forum at 7 p.m. in Willowbrook. For up to date information visit [lipinski.house.gov](http://lipinski.house.gov). Please email questions in advance of the meeting to [eto@epa.gov](mailto:eto@epa.gov) and to [IL03Sterigenics@mail.house.gov](mailto:IL03Sterigenics@mail.house.gov).**

The other issue concerns the ongoing delays, cancellations, and other inconveniences passengers have been experiencing on Metra's BNSF line. These problems have been going on intermittently for most of the year and both BNSF and Metra share the blame. I brought the two railroads together to work out solutions and asked the STB (the federal railroad regulator) to make sure the problems get solved because passengers deserve much better. To give you a chance to ask Metra and BNSF your questions and make sure they hear your stories about service problems, **I am bringing high-ranking representatives from both railroads to an open public meeting on Dec. 10th in Western Springs.**

I invite everyone who is interested to attend these meetings with me as I continue to work to solve these and other problems.

Dan Lipinski

### Lipinski Calls on Federal Regulator to Oversee Metra BNSF

#### *Convenes Meeting on Dec. 10 for Riders to Address Metra and BNSF Leaders*

Public transit riders deserve reliable service, but this year the Metra BNSF line has often failed to deliver it. There have been repeated delays, cancellations, schedule changes, broken air conditioners, and other problems. Passengers deserve much better and Congressman Lipinski is working to get BNSF and Metra to fix the problems.

In August, the congressman brought Metra and BNSF together and put both on notice that they must fix the problems. The two railroads then developed a plan to address the issues. Despite some initial progress, train cancellations and delays have occurred yet again. As a result, the congressman in October called on the Surface Transportation Board, the federal railroad regulator, to increase its oversight of the operations of Metra's BNSF line.

"As co-chair of the House Public Transit Caucus and a frequent transit rider, I fought for and was able to win a 10% increase in federal funding for public transit last Congress because more funding is needed to improve transit infrastructure including rail cars and locomotives," the congressman said. "But there are no good excuses for the poor service BNSF Metra passengers have been receiving. I'm going to continue to work to ensure that passengers get the service they deserve."

To give riders a chance to pose questions to Metra and BNSF and make sure their experiences with service problems are heard, **the congressman is bringing high-ranking representatives from both railroads to an open public meeting on Dec. 10th at 7 p.m. at McClure Junior High in Western Springs.**



*The congressman speaks about the much needed increase in federal funding for public transit to improve its operations.*

### Congressional assistance is available at these offices:

6245 S. Archer Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60638  
773-948-6223

5210 W. 95th St.  
Suite 104  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453  
708-424-0853

Orland Park Village Hall  
14700 Ravinia Ave., 1st Floor  
Orland Park, IL 60462  
708-403-4379

Lockport Central Square  
222 E. 9th St. #109  
Lockport, IL 60441  
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## **Lipinski: USEPA Must Show Sterigenics Emissions Safe or Shut Plant** *Announces EPA Public Meeting on Nov. 29 in Willowbrook*

This past summer the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) reported a disturbingly high cancer risk in communities around the Sterigenics facility in Willowbrook due to its emissions of ethylene oxide (EtO), a gas used to sterilize medical equipment and produce other chemicals. The USEPA's estimate of EtO's cancer risk had been recently updated after 30 years and the risk is now understood to be 30 times higher than previously thought. This meant the excess cancer risk around Sterigenics is 300 cancer cases per million people, well above the level of 100 cases per million that USEPA uses as a threshold to take action.

Following this report, the congressman immediately began working to protect the health of those who live, work, and go to school around the plant. Sterigenics' reported update of its pollution control equipment this summer sounds like it was a good step, but it was not



*The congressman talks about healthcare and environmental regulations at a senior fair.*

### **MEETING NOTICES**

#### **USEPA MEETING ON STERIGENICS**

**Thursday, November 29**  
**Open House 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Community Forum 7 p.m.**

**Ashton Place Banquets**  
**341 75<sup>th</sup> St. in Willowbrook**

#### **CONGRESSMAN LIPINSKI HOSTS PUBLIC MEETING WITH METRA & BNSF**

**Monday, December 10, 7 p.m.**  
**McClure Junior High**  
**4225 Wolf Road in Western Springs**  
**(Main entrance on Johnson Ave.)**

enough to ensure public health. **So on Sept. 21st, he sent a letter to USEPA demanding that the Sterigenics plant be shut down unless air testing could demonstrate that current emissions are not a health threat.**

After USEPA's inaction, in mid-October the Villages of Willowbrook and Burr Ridge announced that they were tired of waiting and were exploring hiring private contractors to conduct their own air testing. On Oct. 16th the congressman sent a letter to the USEPA Regional Administrator once again calling for the commencement of air monitoring and requesting that they provide the villages with any scientific or technical assistance they needed.

On Nov. 13th, the congressman sent USEPA a letter demanding that the agency update its emissions regulation for EtO, something they were required by law to do four years ago but have still failed to do. This means it is still legal to continue emitting dangerous levels of EtO. In order to further prod USEPA to act, the congressman introduced a bill in the House of Representatives that would direct the agency's administrator to finally update this critical regulation.

The congressman and his staff continue to closely monitor this problem and work to ensure that everything possible is being done to protect our health. If you want to learn more please attend a **public meeting being held by USEPA on Thursday, Nov. 29th in Willowbrook.** Visit [lipinski.house.gov](http://lipinski.house.gov) for details.

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